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May 19, 1966

Dr. Robert F. Thorne
Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden
1500 North College Ave.
Claremont, California

Dear Dr. Thorne:

Thanks for sending the follow-up letter about Mrs. Frost's specimen.

The Mother Lode Country was very good to us - so many flowers! Redbud, all kinds of wildflowers, apple blossoms, and daffodils and tulips at Daffodil Hill in Amador County.

We're always amazed at the way you can identify stray leaves, so keep on trying by sending the ones we receive. Will ask for better specimens, of course, if necessary.

No. 1: From Gridley, Butte Co. "I got the shoot of this plant from a tree over on Austin Creek near Guerneville, which had red flowers. My plant is more like a bush and grows well and takes the hot weather here. Can you tell me the name and if it will bloom here?" Calycanthus occ.

No. 2: From El Monte - "A seedling tree came up in my flower border last year and is now four feet tall. I like it and would like to keep it for shade. It grew under maples, box elders and elms." (There are so many maples! M.M.)

Acer or Morus

No. 3: From Santa Cruz - "The enclosed plant grows in one small spot among redwoods, firs, tanbark oaks, azaleas, groundsel, manzanita, etc. that is indigenous to our place in the mountains above Santa Cruz at about 2400-feet elevation. Believe it has a white or pale lavender bloom a bit later in the summer."

Psoralea orbicularis Lindl.

No. 4: From Carmichael, Sacramento Co. - "Enclosed are a couple of leaves of a tree in our backyard. Would like to know the name of the tree, also why it doesn't bear nuts. It is approximately 5 years old and 20 feet or more high."

No. 5: From San Marcos, San Diego Co. - "Please identify if possible. I have been told it is Persian Silk. Could you give me the botanical name, how large it grows and what care it requires. It has a very fragrant flower (almost flat). The color is a light pink and purple but after it blooms it begins to die and has a peculiar odor. Plant stays green the year round." (Couldn't find a plant called Persian Silk in any of our books. Even Mr. Webster failed me on this. M.M.)

Thanks for anything you can do with these.

Perilla

Sincerely
CALIFORNIA FARMER

By Marjorie McAlinden
Marjorie McAlinden

MM:sc